

Townsend Andrew E
 Form 4
 March 16, 2018

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Townsend Andrew E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA INC [HTLF]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1398 CENTRAL AVE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 03/11/2018

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 EVP, Chief Credit Officer

DUBUQUE, IA 52001

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock					25,861	D ⁽¹⁾	
Common Stock	03/11/2018		M	294 A \$ 56	26,155	D	
Common Stock					1,163	I	401(k)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. De	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
2018 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					(3)	(3)	Common Stock	785
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	(2)					(4)	(4)	Common Stock	1,047
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	(2)					(5)	(5)	Common Stock	785
2017 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					(6)	(6)	Common Stock	689
2017 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	(2)					(7)	(7)	Common Stock	516
2017 Performance Based Restricted	(2)					(8)	(8)	Common Stock	631

Stock (1-year performance)									
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					(9)	(9)	Common Stock	667 (10)
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					(9)	(9)	Common Stock	413
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	(2)					(11)	(11)	Common Stock	657
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	(2)					(11)	(11)	Common Stock	1,379
2015 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					(12)	(12)	Common Stock	833
2014 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					(13)	(13)	Common Stock	833
2014 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)	03/11/2018		F	416	(13)	(13)	Common Stock	417

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Townsend Andrew E 1398 CENTRAL AVE DUBUQUE, IA 52001			EVP, Chief Credit Officer	

Signatures

/s/ Andrew E
Townsend

03/16/2018

 **Signature of Reporting
Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
 - ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) These shares are held in Jt. Ten.
 - (2) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Issuer's common stock.
 - (3) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 3-6-2019, 1/3 vest on 3-6-2020, and 1/3 vest on 3-6-2021.
 - (4) These restricted stock units vest in 2021 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
 - (5) These restricted stock units vest on 3-6-2021 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
 - (6) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest in 01-2018, 1/3 vest in 01-2019 and 1/3 vest in 01-2020.
 - (7) These restricted stock units vest in 2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
 - (8) These restricted stock units vest on 1-19-2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
 - (9) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 1-19-2017, 1/3 vest on 1-19-2018, and 1/3 vest on 1-19-2019.
 - (10) These restricted stock units were granted outside of the annual awarding of restricted stock units due to employment change.
 - (11) These restricted stock units vest in 2019 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
 - (12) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 1-20-2018, 1/3 vest on 1-20-2019, and 1/3 vest on 1-20-2020.
 - (13) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 3-11-2017, 1/3 vest on 3-11-2018, and 1/3 vest on 3-11-2019.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.